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The Washington Report

Communists Stage A Show

CPYRGHT

By REP. JOHN ASHBROOK

THE APRIL 15 mass demonstration against the war in Vietnam is now history. It must be considered as a success from a standpoint of the numbers involved and the press coverage gained. The largest success, however, was the amazing ability to withhold from the public one salient fact concerning it—the Communist party played a dominant role in the organizations which developed and directed the rallies in New York and San Francisco.

A few weeks ago there were howls of protest from the American left when it was learned that the CIA was infiltrating student groups to further what they loosely termed "American policy aims." I also

spoke in opposition to this unwarranted and improper clandestine use of taxpayers money. What a strange silence there has been from these same people to the fact that the Communist party was the principal organizing force behind the demonstrations which took place during "Vietnam Week." Even more distressing was the silence of the American press in its reporting on these activities.

The House Committee on Un-American Activities conducted extensive inquiries into the organizations promoting Vietnam Week. The record is replete with the evidence of Communist deception and manipulation. I would be glad to send along this report and, will do so if you direct a request to my office. Two groups spearheaded Vietnam Week—The Student Mobilization Committee and the Spring Mobilization Committee. Communists played dominant roles in both organizations.

The student group grew out of a conference which was held in Chicago in December 1966. I was called by Bettina Aptheker, a member of the Communist Party's National Committee. Their original proposal was a nationwide student strike but they ultimately settled for "Vietnam Week."

NORMALLY, in these newsletters I have not gone into detail to illustrate Communist involvement in activities of this type but you might find it interesting to see for yourself. Representatives of the following Communist organizations took part: (1) Communist Party, U. S. A.; (2) W. E. B. DuBois Clubs of America; (3) Progressive Labor Party (the Peking faction of the U. S. Communist movement); (4) Socialist Workers Party (the Peking faction of the U. S. Communist movement); (5) Young Socialist Alliance (youth branch of the Socialist Workers Party); (6) Youth Against War and Fascism (youth arm of the Workers World Party, a Trotskyist splinter group); (7) National Guardian.

One Communist periodical summed up the conference in this way:

"The conference was dominated by the Communist Party of the United States (CPUSA), the DuBois Clubs and the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA)."

Indeed, the Communists did dominate this conference. Principal action included statements following the Red line against the U. S. For example, it said the war in Vietnam waged by the U. S. "is a racist war, a murderous war against a colored people . . . an illegal war (and) but one symptom of a diseased society." It called for a "Vietnam Week" on April 8-15, 1967.

OUR COMMITTEE report identifies top-ranking Communists as being associated with the Chicago Conference and the two committees spearheading the demonstrations. Among them are Herbert Aptheker, leading theoretician of the Communist Party; Mike Zagarell, the Party's National Youth Director; Arnold Johnson, the Party's Public relations director; Bettina Aptheker, described by the Committee as the Party's "top youth agitator"; director of the W. E. B. DuBois Clubs; Robert Heisler, former DuBois Clubs' National Committeeman, and Albert Lima, Chairman of the Northern California District of the Communist Party—all members of the Communist Party's National Committee. These are but a few of the Communists and radical of Vietnam Week.

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